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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Loving Lord, who rules the raging of the sea, make us aware of how near You are to us at all times. May this knowledge bring us peace and inspire us to look to You for guidance. Refresh our Senators with Your spirit. Quicken their thinking and reinforce their judgment. Empower them to conserve and strengthen the best and holiest of our American heritage. Lord, help them to remember that righteousness exalts a nation but sin will destroy any people. In all their labors, inspire our lawmakers to fulfill Your purposes.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 23, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,

President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1664

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my belief that H.R. 1664 is due for a second reading and is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1664) to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act. There are currently six amendments pending. One of those amendments is a second-degree amendment.

When the Senate resumes consideration of this bill this morning—I assume there will be no morning business, so whenever Senator MCCONNELL and I finish—Senator LEAHY will be here to work with the manager on the Republican side and Republicans and Democrats on a time to vote on pending amendments. Those votes, we hope, will occur this morning.

As I announced earlier, we are going to turn to the House message with respect to the budget resolution, which is basically an apparatus to get us to conference on this matter, and we will do that sometime this afternoon. Senator MCCONNELL and I have to go to the White House this afternoon, so we will have all that worked out before we go down there. Senators should be prepared for votes in relation to the motions to instruct conferees this afternoon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, at this time, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 56, the nomination of Thomas L. Strickland to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to this nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object, let me say to my good friend the majority leader, there is at least one Member on my side who is not yet prepared to clear this matter. Therefore, I must, for the moment, object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we understood that the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee—the committee that reported this—was the individual holding this up, so I talked to Senator INHOFE.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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